

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

MARCH, 1944

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Monthly Memo TO: Local Presidents

THERE ARE many things I should like to discuss with you this month, but space will permit only a few of them.

Summer Round-Up. We realize that there are many unusual difficulties in the way of carrying out a complete program this year, in many places; please do not relax your efforts, for health is one of the most important foundation stones of life. If you cannot carry out a full program, do the best you can; study the recommendations that have been made by our professional advisory committee, and get recognition for what you are able to do. Health work is important war work.

OPA. Food is a vital necessity for all of us; what we eat and the price we pay for our food are important matters in each family and also in the welfare of the nation. A special plea comes from OPA asking every member to realize that an individual can either contribute to inflation or help to control it. Every homemaker can contribute to the war effort and help in price control by paying no more than ceiling prices for any food. This is nationally recognized as work on the home front.

Help to Wives of Soldiers. Recently someone in Washington requested me to ask you to help the young wives who take their children and move near military posts to be with their husbands as long as possible. Many young women have to use the railroad stations to change the clothes of their babies and young children or to give them other physical care. In too many places the station washrooms are not clean;

neither is there any clean chair and table which the mother may use. If you live where these young women wait for trains, why not appoint a committee to see that some conveniences and comforts are available?

American Home Campaigns. The Association of Women Broadcasters has wanted to do something to give the American home the recognition it deserves and to help homemakers with their many problems. They have asked a number of national organizations—the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is one—to co-operate with them in preparing material that will be broadcast during March, April, and May. The home is under many strains these days, and it gets the blame for much that is wrong with children; this campaign is a united effort by means of radio, which reaches into every home, to bring help and understanding to homemakers.

Did Your Son Leave High School to Enlist? If so, does he know that he can get a high school diploma by taking correspondence work with the United States Armed Forces Institute? The work being done by this organization is worldwide. Some boys are getting high school diplomas; others are adding to their college credits; still others are learning things that will help them after the war or things they have always wanted to study, although they are not working for high school or college credit. Personal help and guidance is given to students. It was recently my pleasure to spend some hours at the headquarters of the Institute, and I want to pass on to you my enthusiasm for the work that is being done there. Won't you tell your members about this educational opportunity for young

men in service? Write to Headquarters, U. S. Armed Forces Institute, Madison 3, Wisconsin, for full information.

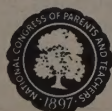
National Parent-Teacher Conference on Childhood and Youth. Elsewhere in this *Bulletin* you will read more detailed plans for our national meeting to be held May 22, 23, and 24. This is for parent-teacher members only. The meeting has been streamlined; it will deal with current problems and also bring help to you in your parent-teacher work, which is vital work on the home front. It will be three years before there is a meeting in the East again; next year it will be in the West, and the year after, in the central part of the country.

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During February I spent quite a little time in Washington conferring with the Children's Bureau, Office of Education, and some other groups regarding current problems as they relate to children and youth now and in the immediate future. You will be hearing more of these matters. But let me suggest that you begin to do some thinking about boys and girls who have left school for industry. What of their future when they are no longer needed or wanted by industry because of lack of education? What sort of school program should be offered them? Will some of them need help to stay in school? Are child labor laws being weakened in your community? To what extent, in what types of work, and under what conditions is it right and proper for young people to be employed? What sort of counseling and guidance is available for your young people? National leaders are today giving long and serious consideration to these and many other youth problems. In the final analysis they are largely community problems. They are our problems if we remember our Purposes.

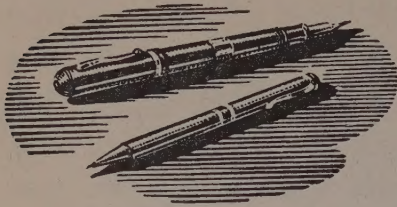
OUR NATIONAL RADIO PROGRAM

On the air: Saturdays from 1:30 to 1:45 E.W.T. Are YOU listening to this program? You will find it listed in your local paper under the title "The Baxters." It is an N B C broadcast.



Myrietta A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



Questions . . .

FROM NEAR AND FAR

ALMOST every day the National Office receives questions from P.T.A.'s throughout the country — questions on all sorts of subjects relating to P.T.A. activities. Maybe you, too, have wondered about some of these things. In case you have, we'll print a few typical questions — and our answers.

1. *We need some background material on the history, projects, and functions of the parent-teacher association. Where can we get this information?* Our new book, **THE PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION: ITS ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT**, will answer all these questions and many more. It may be ordered from the National Office. Price \$1.25.

2. *We can't hear the Baxter radio program in our community. Is there any way in which this can be made possible?* Contact your state radio chair-

man. Perhaps your local radio station has an outlet on which the program can be recorded and presented to parent-teacher members in your community at a convenient time.

3. *We should like to have a good speaker at one of our meetings. Can you give us some suggestions?* Many state congresses have excellent speakers' lists which local associations may use. State universities also provide speakers through their Extension Departments.

4. *Where can we obtain 16mm. sound films to use at our local meetings?* Films on war and postwar problems can be obtained from New Tools for Learning, 280 Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y. A list is furnished on request. The Office of War Information, Bureau of Motion Pictures, also has excellent films covering a variety of subjects vital to the war effort. These films may be obtained from 242 different distributors, university film libraries, state and city school systems, public libraries, and civilian defense councils throughout the nation.

5. *Our association is anxious to start a study group. What materials and subjects can you suggest?* A mimeographed list of suggested Congress materials for study groups may be obtained from the National Office, 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois.

PAN-AMERICAN DAY APRIL 14

Many cities and organizations throughout the country will give official recognition to Pan-American Day, April 14. For parent-teacher associations that are interested in observing this day, the following suggestions may be helpful:

1. The grounds of public buildings offer opportunities for a grouping of flag poles, each flying the flag of an American republic. The flags could first be raised on Pan-American Day with appropriate ceremonies.

2. Department stores, bookstores, and drugstores might be persuaded to have special exhibits — particularly, window displays — that will feature the products, books, architecture, furniture, decorations, equipment, etc., of the other Americas. Art work, stamp collections, and posters prepared in the schools might also be used in these exhibits.

3. Both school and public libraries might arrange special displays of books, flags, and art objects.

4. Both schools and music stores can feature the songs and other music of the American republics.

5. Outdoor events — parades, flag-raising ceremonies, etc. — are particularly valuable in arousing the interest of thousands of people who have never given inter-American relations any serious study. It is suggested that the plans make use of such uniformed groups as the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and others accustomed to parading.

6. The Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs is releasing three new 16mm. moving pictures on Latin America during Pan-American Week. The three will constitute a 70-minute showing, recommended as a unit show which may be publicized. Fifty other sound pictures, covering all Latin American countries, are also available at 100 state depositories. Complete information on these films may be obtained by writing the Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

Chicago Members Push Bond Sales

From Mrs. F. Russell Lyon, Illinois state chairman, Schools at War Program for Public and Private Schools, there comes a report of the work of P.T.A. members in the sale of War Bonds, especially in the Chicago area. She writes: "Many of our parent-teacher members in Chicago are now assisting in the drive. All local associations have been asked to buy at least one bond. Many have bought more and are having them made out to our scholarship fund. Our schools have been doing a splendid piece of work, assisted by parent-teacher members. Chicago schools purchased \$2,426,269.50 worth of bonds in the recent jeep campaign from September 1 through December 7."

How many other officers and chairmen see your copy of the *National Congress Bulletin*? Don't pigeon-hole it! Pass it along! An informed membership is an effective membership.

Resolution Passed by Bronxville Council

The following resolution was passed by the Bronxville (New York) P.T.A. Council at a recent meeting.

Resolved, That in the absence of specific knowledge of any military objections, the methods now used in feeding the children of Greece should be applied in feeding the children of Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France.

Be it further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs with the urgent request that each of them use his good offices to make such a plan effective.

TEACHING IS VITAL WORK, TOO

Despite the demands for additional personnel, both in industry and in the armed forces, teachers are urged to stay at their posts. No other work can be more important, either for our present or our future welfare, than that of guiding and teaching children. The war is being fought to safeguard their future; we must not neglect the early training that forms the basis for that future.

Membership Dues



SEVERAL times lately I have heard from places which seemed to be *debating* whether or not to send to the state treasurer the state and National portions of the membership dues received by the local association. This must surely be due to a misunderstanding. Our membership is *all-inclusive*, which means that 5 cents per member goes to the National Organization, a portion goes to the state work (whatever amount is prescribed by state bylaws), and the remainder stays in the local treasury. Each association sets its own dues in accordance with these three provisions. Local, state, and National Bylaws are very specific on the subject of dues. The local treasurer is the *trustee* for these funds and sends them at specified times to the state treasurer, who, in turn, sends the 5 cents per capita to the National treasurer.

We keep our dues as low as possible. We all know that costs have gone up since our Bylaws set the National portion of the dues at 5 cents per member. We know, too, that in many other national organizations the dues are nearer five dollars than five cents. By careful management and volunteer services, however, the National Congress has been able to function effectively on the aggregate of these small sums. Even in wartime it has maintained an expanded program of work without having to ask for increases. But the only way it can *continue* to give service is by receiving promptly the 5 cents per member from *all* the members of local associations.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the *only* organization that gives power, prestige, vitality, and significance to the letters *P.T.A.* Without its organized guidance, its constructive program of work, its supporting national contacts, and its established place in the affairs of the nation, the letters *P.T.A.* would not mean the same to your school or your community.

To carry on its vast program of work and to keep these letters — *P.T.A.* — a living symbol of the common interest of parent and teacher in the welfare and education of children, the National Congress needs the financial assistance embodied in the 5 cent per capita dues. I am depending on each local leader to forward these dues promptly through the established state channels, so that we can continue to function effectively as one of the country's largest and most worth-while organizations.

—Minnetta A. Hastings.

A **FORCEFUL** little pamphlet — exactly pocket-size — has just been published by *Allied Youth*. The text is made up of quotations from champions of track, gridiron, and flying field — the idols of America's youth — giving their straightforward reasons for *not* using alcoholic beverages. Mr. W. Roy Breg, executive secretary of *Allied Youth*, suggests that this folder will be particularly useful for distribution to Army and Navy personnel and to civilian young men who will soon be entering the armed forces. *P.T.A.*'s and other organizations can obtain these folders by writing to *Allied Youth*, National Education Association Building, Washington 6, D. C. The prices are as follows: 100 at \$1.00; 1,000 at \$7.50.

The Bulletin Is Yours To Use

From all parts of the country there come requests for a wider distribution of the material in the *National Congress Bulletin*. Such questions as the following are received almost daily: Can I subscribe for the *Bulletin*? How much is it a year? Is it intended only for local presidents? Where can I get a copy of the *Bulletin* that contained all the information about membership? Can we reprint the column, "Alcohol and Today's Youth"?

In answer to these and similar questions, we want to state, most emphatically:

1. Any chairman or member may subscribe to the *Bulletin* by sending 20 cents to the National Office, 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois.

2. Any article appearing in the *National Congress Bulletin* may be reprinted in either a state or local bulletin — or used in any other form by state and local groups.

Will all local presidents please announce these statements at the next meeting of their associations? Thank you.

HELP WANTED: WOMEN

There is still a great need for women in industry and in the armed services, which are falling far short of their enlistment quotas. The National Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission has therefore asked all women's organizations to undertake the recruitment job as a major war effort.

There are still thousands of women, either unmarried or without young children, who are needed for vital war services. Some of these women lack confidence in themselves, some are unwilling to do the jobs for which they are most fitted, and others simply fail to understand that in many communities there is a great need for their services.

Many women in labor shortage areas are confused because they hear that women are being displaced from war production in some other areas where labor is more plentiful. It is true that completion of contracts and other factors are causing partial displacement of women workers in some areas and in some lines of employment. The need for woman labor will therefore decrease in certain areas, but the need for such help will continue to increase in the nation as a whole.

It is unfortunate that women are not always available where the demand is most urgent. In areas where war production is centered and in which labor shortages naturally exist, community facilities such as housing, transportation, medical and child care are so overburdened as to make it undesirable to bring in more new workers.

Local womanpower committees, working closely with government agencies, can do much to encourage many women in such communities to enter the local labor market. If local women go to work, they will make it unnecessary to import more help and thus add to the confusion and congestion.

The War Manpower Commission estimates that by July 1, the nation's working force of women will reach the record total of 18,700,000, or 900,000 more than were employed in July, 1943. Miss Margaret Hickey, committee chairman, advised co-operating organizations to gear their efforts to the employment needs and patterns of the WMC areas throughout the nation.

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Safety First

TWO reports on safety have recently come to our attention, one

from the secretary of the National Safety Council, containing an analysis of traffic fatalities occurring in a Middle Western city; and the other from our own National Safety chairman, Mrs. L. K. Nicholson. There seems to be no better way of emphasizing the importance of an all-out safety effort than by printing some of these facts:

Although it is true that traffic deaths were 32 per cent lower during the first six months of 1943 than in the corresponding period for 1942, during that same period the total number of deaths from accident (not motor vehicle) increased 9 per cent and home accidental fatalities increased 7 per cent. Further analysis brought out the following:

1. The maintenance of homes and household equipment is becoming increasingly difficult.

2. The farmer is under constant pressure to produce more and more at a time when he is short of labor and equipment.

3. Youth and women who have never worked before are entering employment. Many are working under unfavorable conditions or long hours or both.

4. The pedestrian death toll is higher than other classes of traffic accidents. The pedestrian death rate did not decrease in 1942 at the same rate as other types.

5. Approximately 4,000,000 boys and girls are being transported to school in 93,000 buses, many of them in poor condition. Because of the relatively low wage scale for school bus operators in many areas, there is a high turnover of drivers and many inexperienced ones are now employed.

6. The U. S. Army needs two million drivers for one million vehicles. Moreover, Army officials desire all men in uniform to be able to drive.

7. The analysis of traffic fatalities in Milwaukee during three summer months showed that: (a) 85 per cent of the fatalities were pedestrians; (b) 61 per cent were under 15 years of age; (c) 69 per cent of all the fatalities occurred during the daylight hours, and all the child fatalities were in daylight hours; (d) 78 per cent of all the pedestrian fatalities occurred in locations other than the crosswalk; (e) in only one case was the driver under the influence of liquor; and (f) trucks and streetcars played an unusually large part in the picture.

The question that concerns us, of course, is what can each parent-teacher association do to help solve the accident problem at home, on the streets, in factories, and on farms. Mrs. Nicholson, National Safety chairman, suggests the following:

1. Ask local school authorities to teach, through demonstration and other means, the proper way of making simple repairs and the proper method of performing selected household tasks, such as canning and dehydrating foods.

2. Secure data on the needs of local farmers for seasonal help (available from the County Farm Agent); urge the distribution and study of the following materials: *Safety for the U. S. Crop Corps* (a manual for instructors); *Going to the Farm Front?* (a leaflet for Crop Corps members); and *Start Them Right* (a leaflet for the farmer-employer of Crop Corps members). These publications were prepared by the National Safety Council and published by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. They are available at a nominal cost from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

3. Urge the local adoption of war-time labor standards agreed upon last fall by representatives of the U. S. Dept. of Labor, the U. S. Office of Education, and the War Manpower Commission.

4. Urge local police to provide protection for pedestrians and urge all P. T. A. members to observe the rules for safe walking, which may be secured from the local police department.

5. Accept and publicize the ODT ruling requiring pupils living two miles or less from school to walk; urge officials to keep buses in good condition and to provide good drivers. Where necessary, P.T.A. members should organize themselves into emergency transportation corps.

6. Urge local high schools to provide the instruction recommended in *How Your School Can Help the Army Train Its Drivers*. This publication is available from the American Automobile Association, Washington, D. C.

DEADLINE for DUES April 15

We know that membership has increased this year, and of course every local association and state congress wants credit for every new member on its roster. In order to be counted in our 1943-44 fiscal year, however, the state treasurers must send their dues in to the National Office by April 15. This means that each local association must send its dues to the state treasurer well in advance of April 15. May we count on 100 per cent co-operation in meeting the April 15 deadline for dues?

China Book Week March 25-31

At the request of the Office of War Information, the American Library Association is setting aside March 25-31 for the celebration of China Book Week. The purpose of such a week is to encourage reading and discussion on China, with a carry-over of interest into succeeding months. Librarians have been asked to address meetings on China as interpreted through books; to arrange lectures, forums, film showings, or receptions with the joint sponsorship of local groups or individuals; to provide organizations with book lists, book displays, or program suggestions.

There may be other ways in which your association can further the idea behind this project. In any case, urge all your members to participate in the local plans for observing this week.

Sale of Easter Seals

The eleventh annual sale of Easter seals for crippled children, sponsored by the National Society for Crippled Children and its affiliated organizations, will be conducted from March 9 to April 9. The Easter seal has come to symbolize the five-fold program for the adjustment of handicapped children: an opportunity for the child (1) to get well, (2) to go to school, (3) to play with other children, (4) to learn a trade or profession, and (5) to work for a living. These are the opportunities that America asks for all her children.



- Are you buying war bonds and stamps?
- Are you saving fat?
- Are you salvaging every bit of waste paper?

"ALL CHILDREN ARE OUR CHILDREN"

ADVANCE NOTES ON THE 1944 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

"All Children Are Our Children" has been chosen as the theme of the wartime conference on childhood and youth that will be held in New York, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, on May 22-24. Present-day conditions in our own land and throughout the world give this conference a far-reaching significance that only time itself can evaluate.

PARENT EDUCATION FORUM

Communities today are faced with one problem that surmounts all others: juvenile delinquency. Is the home to blame or is the war responsible for the growing number of delinquent teenagers — and sub-teen-agers? What can parents do about it? What effect is the war having on family life? What kind of practical instruction do parents need? These are the down-to-earth questions that will be discussed in the Parent Education Forum to be held on the opening day, from 2 to 3:30 P. M.

Under the leadership of Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Director of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station, University of Iowa, and Parent Education chairman of the National Congress, there will be stimulating discussions of the many current problems of parent education. Outstanding parent educators and psychologists from various parts of the country will take part and contribute specific suggestions from their own rich experience.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS

Following the Parent Education Forum there will be discussion sections on parent-teacher work. Such topics as these will be taken up: war activities, school lunch, legislation, publicity, basic needs of local associations, special problems of high school associations, and special problems of preschool groups.

Field workers who are attending the conference will also take part, making a valuable contribution based on their P.T.A. work in various parts of the country. A number of "resource" people from government agencies and co-operating organizations will present the latest data and the experience of experts.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

During the course of the conference, special recognition will be given to life members, and honorary life memberships will be conferred upon several persons who have made distinguished contributions in the field of parent-teacher endeavor.

SYMPOSIUMS

The afternoon of May 23 will be given over to a series of symposiums based on the conference theme, "All Children Are Our Children." The symposiums will deal with such subjects as health and safety, problems of the home, co-operating with the school, serving the community, and looking ahead.

SPECIAL FEATURES

In addition to the forums and discussions on the practical phases of P.T.A. work, there will be some special features of unusual interest. Highlighting the three main subject divisions of the conference—home, school, and community — will be addresses by nationally known speakers.

On the opening night there will be an address on the home by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who will thus carry on the traditional interest of the First Lady of the Land in the work of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers — an interest that began with Mrs. Cleveland, the First Lady in 1897, when the National Congress was founded.

On Tuesday, when discussions center around the school, there will be talks by Dr. John Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education; and Brigadier-General Walter L. Weible, Director of Training, Army Service Forces. General Weible will talk to the conference about the advantages of pre-induction training.

On Wednesday, devoted to the community, the general problems of children and their relation to the community will be presented by Dr. Katharine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor. Specific phases of the subject will be discussed by specialists in the fields of guidance, child labor, youth activities, health, and social services.

Another highlight will be the *Allied Nations* dinner meeting, attended by distinguished representatives of our allies.

Streamlined in its organization, this wartime conference offers the stimulation of informed discussions, the wisdom of recognized experts, and the inspiration of challenging leaders. It will be a conference to enjoy, to profit by, and to remember. A more detailed program will be given in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.



BOOKS SENT TO STATE PRISON

The Moberly, Missouri, P.T.A. Council recently sent 1,123 grade-school textbooks to Jefferson City, for use in the convict school at the state penitentiary. The books were packed by Mrs. Glenn D. Taylor, the Council president, and Mrs. C. R. McGregor, who is the Chillicothe P.T.A. district president. The textbooks, discarded as obsolete for the present system, were contributed by local school officials.

Upon her recent visit to the penitentiary, during the P.T.A. state convention, Mrs. McGregor became especially interested in the four-room school. Of the 2,200 convicts, 422 are pupils, ranging in age from 16 to 68. Many of them are unable to read and write. Mrs. McGregor found that definite lesson assignments could not be made because no textbooks were available.

Returning to Moberly, Mrs. McGregor reported this situation to the local P.T.A. Council. Members contacted the superintendent of schools, and through his cooperation the books were contributed, packed, and shipped by state truck.

Workers Needed in Canning Industry

The War Manpower Commission, in cooperation with the canning industry, plans to recruit 500,000 workers this year to make sure that all available food is processed for military and civilian use.

Paul V. McNutt, WMC chairman, said that at the height of the canning season of 1943 about half a million persons were employed in food processing. "With larger goals of canned goods fixed for this year we shall need a greater number of workers at the height of the season," announced Mr. McNutt. "We propose to find those workers and to make sure that this year, as last, there is no wasting of food because manpower cannot be supplied for the processors." The WMC plans will be submitted to the National Canners' Association at its annual convention in Chicago.

Have you ever displayed a complete set of Congress publications at any of your P.T.A. meetings? Suggest it to your Publications chairman.

THE *Red Cross* NEEDS YOUR HELP

MARCH has been designated by President Roosevelt as Red Cross Month. During that month the American Red Cross must raise its 1944 War Fund of unprecedented size to meet unprecedented needs. Of course parents and teachers are going to contribute, as generously as their means will allow. To bring us close to what the contributions mean, here are some of the exciting facts about the manifold activities of the Red Cross.

Thousands of food parcels packed by volunteers are regularly shipped by the American Red Cross for distribution to American and United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe. Similar shipments also go to the Far East.

A soldier in the South Pacific received word of serious trouble at home. He went to the American Red Cross representative assigned to his unit. The latter, in co-operation with the man's home chapter, worked out a satisfactory solution of the family's difficulties. This is one of the many Red Cross services to soldiers and sailors and their families. Husbands and fathers, brothers and sons in the service, all call upon the Red Cross in an emergency.

Disaster relief units equipped with mobile first aid facilities and canteens are on the alert at strategic points to aid the victims of fire, flood, or accident. The American Red Cross is training an additional group of volunteers, called dietitians' aides, to supplement the work already being done in the hospitals by nurses' aides and Gray Ladies.

The millions of volunteer blood donors have helped to save the lives of great numbers of our soldiers and sailors. The Red Cross blood donor centers are equipped with up-to-the-minute scientific apparatus and their operation is financed from Red Cross funds.

Members of the American Junior Red Cross take part in many activities of the adult organization. In 1943, in addition to many other activities, they provided 1,000 Christmas decoration kits for use by the American Red Cross in military and naval posts and hospitals overseas.

The American Red Cross has set a goal of \$200,000,000 for its 1944 War Fund. This must be met if the Red Cross is to continue its work on an undiminished scale. Let's give!

MATERNITY AND INFANT CARE PROGRAM

FOR THE FIRST time in our history, the Federal government is making an effort to provide good maternity and infant care for the wives and babies of our fighting men. This program is quite naturally of interest to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and we will all watch its progress eagerly.

Purpose of the Program

The primary purpose of the program is to relieve enlisted men of all anxiety regarding the payment (and the availability) of maternity care for their wives or medical and nursing care for their infants. Eligible wives may receive care by a doctor throughout the prenatal period, at childbirth, and six weeks thereafter, including care of complications, operations, and postpartum examinations. They may have hospital care, if available and if they are willing to accept the accommodations made available by hospitals at the rates paid by the state health departments. They may have nursing care in the home through the local health department, including bedside nursing care when necessary and available. They may receive medical and surgical care if necessary during this period for illnesses unconnected with pregnancy.

Who Is Eligible?

The wife of any enlisted man in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades of all the services — Army, Navy, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps — is entitled to apply. There are no restrictions as to race, residence, color, or financial condition. Nor is there any restriction in regard to the length of residence in the state.

The wife makes her own choice of physician and fills out an application, giving her husband's grade, rank, and serial number. The doctor completes the application, indicating the care he will give and the hospital he recommends. The wife then forwards the application to the state (or local) health department, which notifies both her and the doctor when the application is approved. Separate applications must be made for maternity care and for infant care.

No Financial Restrictions

Congress made it clear that this program was to be operated without distinction as to the financial need of the family. To differentiate between an enlisted man's wife who has some outside income and the wife who has none would be deeply resented by servicemen, and much of the morale value of the program would be lost. Furthermore, to leave some mothers free to add private funds to the state payments would discriminate in favor of the few more well-to-do servicemen's families.

Payment for the services is made by the state health department directly to doctors and hospitals. Additional payments may not be made by, or on behalf of, the wife. Those who can afford to pay extra are not expected to apply for care. There is no need to pay extra to get whatever accommodations the medical need of the wife or infant requires.

Ways of Helping This Program

Everyone can help to spread the word about this program, so that all who need it may be benefited. Specifically, P.T.A. members can help by doing the following:

1. Talk about the program to friends and neighbors. Some of them may know of young wives who need this care but do not know how to obtain it.
2. If you learn of any cases where an expectant mother is having difficulty in obtaining the proper care, find out the facts and pass them on to your state health department.
3. Watch the newspapers — especially "letters to the editor" — for any misleading information about the program, and call the facts to the attention of the editor.
4. Ask the Children's Bureau for any leaflets which would be useful to the members of your organization.
5. Let your congressman know of individual cases of servicemen and families who have been benefited by the program.

6. Be ready to act in support of the program, if congressional support becomes necessary. You will be advised on this point through the *Bulletin*.

ATTENTION, LIBRARY SERVICE CHAIRMEN!

When suggesting books or pamphlets for public or school library shelves, be sure to include *Community Life in a Democracy* and *The Parent-Teacher Organization: Its Origins and Development*.

RELOCATION OF PHYSICIANS

During its last session, Congress passed a bill authorizing the U. S. Public Health Service to assist in relocating physicians and dentists in communities needing medical and dental services.

This law is designed to provide relief for those areas that have lost all or most of their doctors and dentists to the armed forces. The law also provides an opportunity for the physician or dentist who has wanted to set up practice in another community but who has hesitated to do so because of the financial risk involved. Now, with a three-month allowance assured and with transportation paid, he can make that move with less fear of financial loss.

How Communities May Apply

Any municipality, county, or other local subdivision of government may file an application to secure a physician or dentist. Application forms are secured from the state health department and executed by the mayor, city manager, county judge, etc. The application is sent, with a remittance of \$300, to the state health department for approval.

The U. S. Public Health Service then enters into an agreement with a physician or dentist who is licensed to practice in the state in which the applicant community is located, who agrees to practice in that community for at least one year, and who is acceptable to the community. An allowance of \$250 a month is paid him for three months.

Status of the Physician or Dentist

The physician or dentist relocating under agreement with the Public Health Service remains a private, self-employed professional individual. His relation to the community is the same as that of any other private doctor except that he must practice in the new location at least one year.

The success of this relocation plan will depend upon the response of the doctor, the initiative of the needy community, and, above all, upon the extent to which the wishes of the applicant communities coincide with the preference of the doctors who volunteer to serve.

ARE YOU listening to **The Baxters** and to the **"Voice of the P.T.A."** over the NBC radio stations on Saturdays from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m., Eastern War Time? The Chicago area listeners, serviced by station WMAQ, hear the program rebroadcast on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m., Central War Time. Don't forget to let us know how you like the program!

What IS THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS?

● Fine thing, you may say, to run across such a question in the *National Congress Bulletin*! But there's more than a little evidence that some of our members and the local P.T.A.'s to which they belong have not yet fully realized that they—*they themselves and no others*—ARE the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The National Congress is made up of them, could not exist without them, and must look to them for the effectiveness of its nation-wide program for the welfare of children and youth.

● Many of us, when we think of the National Congress, are inclined to think of the National Board of Managers, or the National Executive Committee, or the National Office. But in reality these are only a part of the National Congress. They are instruments of service set up to make it easier for the organization as a whole to carry on its work in more than 28,000 local units. It is a great mistake to think of them as separate agencies.

● In an organization that has more than two and a half million members and covers the entire nation, unity of all parts of that organization is all-

important. The local unit, the state congress, and the National Organization are one. When we speak of "the National" or of "the state congress," we are speaking of parts of our own P.T.A. organization. We should think of them that way, too, and then we should not be in any danger of neglecting some important piece of work with the plea, "The National will attend to that," or "That's a matter for the state congress." We should never be tempted, either, to use the National and state portions of our dues to supply local needs, thus impairing the effectiveness of the whole program.

● *To every parent-teacher leader and member, therefore, we should like to say: Remember, you and your local unit are the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. What you do will help to determine the results of parent-teacher work all over the nation. The National Congress is ONE organization with ONE immense membership. Let's REALIZE that unity henceforward.*

"FIGURE IT OUT"

A new dramatic script with music, entitled, "Figure It Out," is now ready for distribution. In addition to its dynamic presentation of the problems of war finance and of holding down the cost of living, this fast-moving tuneful show has real entertainment value.

"Figure It Out" is written for production by high schools, colleges, and community theatres. It can be easily presented by amateurs, and the cast calls for a variety of personnel, both young people and adults.

Any interested group is asked to write the Education Section, War Finance Division, U. S. Treasury Department, Washington 25, D. C., and request copies of the script. The following material will be sent: (1) a dozen copies of the script; (2) four copies of the vocal arrangements of the songs; (3) one copy of the slide film; and (4) one set of orchestrations of the music (if needed).



Preschool Material

Those of our members who have small children or whose friends or neighbors have children of preschool age will find *Parents and the Preschool Child* a handy and helpful little publication. The chapter titles indicate the scope of this booklet:

- *The Young Mother Faces War.*
- *The Democratic Nursery.*
- *Keeping Them Well in Wartime.*
- *Why Have Fears?*
- *Books—Guardians of Growth.*
- *Play Is Like This.*
- *Should Children Play At War?*
- *The Moral Care of Children.*
- *Home Guidance in Spiritual Growth.*
- *Making Friends.*
- *We Are Almost Ready For School.*

The price per copy is only 25¢ because, as you know, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers makes no profit on any of its publications. All are offered at cost as a service to the membership. Order from the National Office.

A VARIETY OF GROUP ACTIVITIES

Last year's reports from the local associations throughout the country indicate that in most places there are separate groups within the association that are organized for some special study or activity. Sixty per cent of the locals had Study Groups and 17 per cent had Adult Classes. The subject matter considered by these groups covered a wide range of interests—well over a hundred different topics. The two topics developed in the *Magazine*—"America Pitches In" and "Babies in Wartime"—were the most popular, although different phases of nutrition, first aid and home nursing, parent education, and child welfare were listed frequently.

Among the Radio Listening Groups, the most popular program was "The Baxter Family," sponsored by the National Congress. In some groups, the members met together to listen to the broadcast, while in other groups the members listened individually at home and then discussed the program at the next meeting of the group. Some Radio Groups gave special consideration to the attributes of children's programs. Other programs to which they gave special attention were: "Cavalcade of America," "Information Please," "The Family in War," "Lest We Forget," "March of Time," and "Over at Our House."

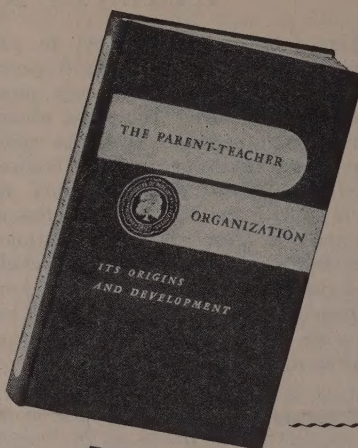
Among the special Reading Groups, *Community Life in a Democracy* was the book of greatest interest. Other groups conducted book reviews, read and discussed the *National Parent-Teacher*, or considered such topics as adolescent questions, better homes, character education, discipline, drama, gardening, home problems in nutrition and health, human growth and development, human relations, juvenile protection, mental hygiene, modern books, parent education, peace, postwar problems, and the selection of books.

Maybe this variety of group activities will give your association some ideas!

Distribution of War Handbook

National Congress members will be pleased to know that 300 copies of our *War Handbook* have been distributed by the National Housing Association to Project Services Advisers for use in their work.

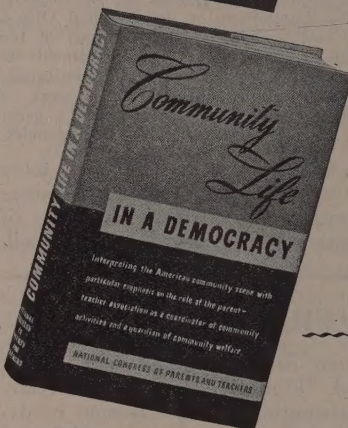
Publications YOU SHOULD OWN



THE PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION: ITS ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT. \$1.25

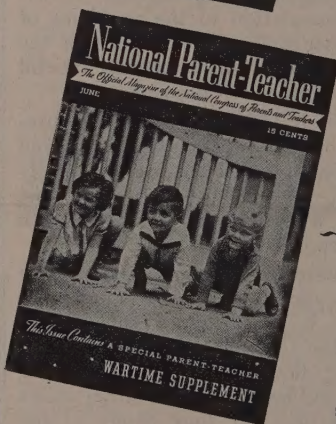
This newest publication of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers contains a concise, straightforward account of the growth and activities of the parent-teacher movement. It is prepared especially for parent-teacher leaders and for teachers who wish to become familiar with the purposes, ideals, and working program of the P.T.A.

The Parent-Teacher Organization is an invaluable addition to every P.T.A. bookshelf—in home, school, public library, and teacher-training institution.



COMMUNITY LIFE IN A DEMOCRACY \$1.00

Never before was there such a need for adequate leadership in community service. Inspired forethought enabled the National Congress editors to have ready—when the need was greatest—this book that discusses community problems, points the way to their solution, and gives a vision of the tremendous possibilities that lie ahead.



THE NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER \$1.00 per year

The *National Parent-Teacher* provides the finest possible means for keeping up-to-date on modern practices and progress in child training, both at home and at school. Not only the "how," but the "why" behind the "how" are explained in challenging articles by the nation's leaders in child guidance and community welfare.

COMING SOON

Revised, up-to-the-minute editions of the following booklets:

PROGRAM PLANNING—With programs specially planned to deal with today's war-conditioned needs.

PARENT-TEACHER PUBLICITY—With numerous examples of the kind of "copy" that gets into the newspapers, as well as workable suggestions for using the Radio Script Service and other materials supplied by the National Congress to help P.T.A.'s get publicity in their own communities.